



Elinor Wonders Why

Writers Guide/Premise Meeting Agenda
February 8th, 2019 1PM EST/10amPT
Dial in # 1-888-842-2237
Pin # 2665



Attendees:

Daniel Whiteson - Creator
Jorge Cham - Creator
Natalie Engel - PBS - Executive Producer
Anne E. Lund - PBS - Executive Producer
Katherine Sandford - Story Editor
Sara Sweetman - Consultant
Michael Foulke - Creators Assistant
Kevin McCallef - Pipeline Studios - Series Director
Marissa Collyer - Pipeline Studios - Senior Producer
Paul Moncrieffe - Pipeline Studios - Script Coordinator

1) Notes to Writers Document

- Everyone is happy with the document

2) Writers

- Kate Barris and Mik Perlus will be leaving the show
- Daniel, Jorge and Kathy believe they are good with the writers on the show
- We might pull the Interstitial writers as part of the team as well

3) New Story Notes:

- Caring for the environment, preserve Nature
- Recycle, Reuse, Reduce
- More simple stories like the Velcro
- Elinor's house has a Garden - Gardening episode
- Find it fascinating that a tiny seed can grow a HUGE apple tree, Ari's dad has an Apple Tree
- Looking at similarities and differences of Trees
- Stories need more comedy
- Why does something disappear and why does it stay?
- Want to connect stories back to the environment and how it effects, not about the physical
- It's not just about finding the right answer but testing and finding evidence
- We can break out a bit into other ecosystems, going out from the forest environment, insects, fish

- Not a big problem to do stories with different settings that kids don't have access to, creeks, gardens, etc. As long as the emotional arcs are relatable to the kids it will work.
- Ideally have a grown up around while kids are near water. If they are in the water then they would need safety gear
- Nature grows everywhere - the discovery of nature in the weirdest places, cracks of sidewalks etc.
- What could we do with Elinor if she can't go outside - weather itself is about of nature. Weather effects the Earth
- Try to stay away from Bird Stories
- Man who created the rain coat
- Feet episode, different types of feet and what they do for the animal
- Static cling
- Another Night episode - fireflies, things that glow
- Music or with music - Bring in Señor Tapir into an episode
- Senor Tapir - Travelling musical instrument salesman - he can tell tales of places he's been
- How nature is used to provide power - waterfall, windmill. Alternative energy. Pinwheels
- Sun episode - makes things warm
- Fun plants, like Venus fly traps
- Bugs you find under logs or rocks
- Using colours as warning - nature and our world use these
- Worms come out in the rain
- Some animals live on the land and some live in the water, they need different things to survive or need the right stuff. Encourage life jackets.
- Halloween or Christmas episodes - Make up their own holidays - PBS will send out a roll out plan for holiday episodes
- Pumpkin idea, pumpkin seeds, use all the different parts
- Earth Day episode
- Back to school
- Seasonal episodes - Fall, Summer
- Thanksgiving episodes
- Bison's use their heads to clear snow like a snow plow
- Koa episodes! He's a hilarious kid!
- Water Absorption
- Float vs Sink
- Symmetry
- Stars
- Healing Plants ie. Aloe
- Natures Food - bees & flower birds/ seeds (build a pine cone bird feeder)
- Wind
- Sun vs Moon

4.) PBS Additional Story Ideas:

- Water skeeters/striders are also fun - how they can scoot on top of water. There could be a ND connection there.
- Evergreen trees vs. deciduous trees or even cacti and the fact that the needles are modified leaves - trying to think of some interesting plants
- And also, here's the bison video Ethan has been obsessed with. The part with the "snow-plowing" is around 1:45.
<https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/photosmultimedia/indepth-bison.htm>

5.) Things We Love About the Show:

- The authentic kid moments, the little things kids say to their parents
- The collaboration that the kids have
- Dividing the responsibilities to all the characters where they can shine using their strengths
- Olive and Ari seem to have their own relationship that's fun
- Love learning a little bit more about the characters through the stories, emotional wants.
- every story has an emotional hook that kids can relate
- Like the stories where the audience can play along

6.) Settings:

- Since we are building the town it would be nice going into other locations
- Revisit Hazel and Ari's homes